

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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Serial: 00403

14 Oct. 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Subject: The Navy's interest in the processing of intercepted foreign, non-military communications.

Reference: (a) DNC Memo for SecNav, Serial 000110320 of 24 September 1945.

Enclosure: (A) Original of reference (a) with enclosures thereto.

1. The attached memorandum for the Secretary of the Navy on the subject of the Navy's interest in the processing of intercepted foreign, non-military communications has been referred to me for comment or recommendation.

2. My comment has been withheld pending a meeting of the Army-Navy Communications Intelligence Board at which it was hoped some agreement could be reached regarding a closer coordination of effort.

3. However, no definite decision was reached by the members of ANCIB at their recent meeting, concerning a workable closer coordination between the two services in the communication intelligence field.

4. General Marshall and I are in accord in the belief that the present coordination of our signal intelligence activities can be improved, but we have not yet been able to work out a solution which is satisfactory to both services. I have directed the Navy members of ANCIB to continue their efforts.

5. With respect to the subject of the attached memorandum, I have proposed to General Marshall that the processing of non-military and non-naval traffic should be jointly undertaken. I believe that we are in agreement with the Army concerning the necessity for this, but not as to the manner in which this should be accomplished. The Army favors a complete merger of our cryptanalytic units and facilities under one director whereas the Navy, desirous of insuring its control of the production,

ENCLOSURE "A"

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evaluation and dissemination of Naval operational intelligence essential to Naval command, does not favor a complete merger but would rather effectuate the desired results by joint effort under joint direction.

6. I agree with the summarization made by the Director of Naval Communications in the attached memorandum, that: (a) the Navy must have an equal interest and share in processing foreign, non-military traffic, (b) such work is essential to adequate peace time training and the maintenance of technical proficiency.

/s/ E. J. King
Fleet Admiral, U.S. Navy